



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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CHARLOTTE COUNTY MAN FOUND GUILTY OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

Mark Lee Foreman, age 27, of Port Charlotte, Florida, was convicted after a two week trial in Fort Myers by a jury in U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 5 or more kilograms of cocaine, 1,000 or more kilograms of marijuana, and Methylenedioxymethamphetamine MDMA, known on the streets as "Ecstasy." The jury deliberated for just over a day before finding the defendant guilty.

The jury heard testimony from 13 co-conspirators, most of whom had previously pleaded guilty to Federal drug charges. Evidence at the trial showed that the defendant was part of a drug ring in Charlotte County, Florida, that beginning in the early 1990's, purchased cocaine and MDMA in Miami and marijuana from suppliers in Tampa and Orlando and distributed all three drugs in the Charlotte County area into early 2002.

Mr. Foreman faces a maximum of life in prison, without parole, and a fine of up to a \$8,000,000. Based on the jury verdict, Mr. Foreman should forfeit just over \$2.7 million to the United States as proceeds of his drug activities.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Robert P. Barclift and Jesus M. Casas.